

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4804

1. Name

Historic 209 – 239 South Duncan Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 209 – 239 South Duncan Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

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7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check One

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check One

☒ original site
☐ moved:
date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The east side of the 200 block of S. Duncan Street is built up with two different groups of two-story, two-bay wide early Italianate-style brick houses, as well as several individual structures of a similar style. Some of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted; others have been covered with formstone.

219 – 227 S. Duncan St. are two stories in height, only 11' wide and occupy lots only 37'9" deep. Each house is only two-rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were always painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the houses. They have shed roofs and a brick cornice consisting of two rows of progressively recessed stretcher bricks set above a frieze area decorated with brick modillions. The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums and wood sills. None of the original 2/2 sash survive, and all windows are filled with modern 1/1 replacement sash. Most of the original single light doorway transoms have been covered over and no original doors remain. The houses sit on low basements, once lit by a single-light sash, but now covered over. Each house is reached by two or three concrete steps.

209 (15' wide on a 36' deep lot) and 217 (16' wide on a 35' lot) S. Duncan St. have been completely covered with formstone. The cornice at 209 has been obscured, but it probably had an early-Italianate-style cornice such as is seen on 217, with a crown molding supported by a simple row of block modillions. No original features can be distinguished beneath the formstone, but 209 may have had segmentally arched brick lintels and wood sills and 217 seems to have had flat lintels. Both of these houses sit on low basements, being reached by two concrete steps. 209 has an arched sallyport at one end of the house.

229 – 237 are a row of five two-story houses, 13'2" wide on lots 45' deep. They have shed roofs and simple, scroll-sawn bracketed cornices, though the cornices have been covered with formstone on three of the units. Each house is two-rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses were probably constructed in running bond and were originally painted, but are now covered with formstone. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves and turnings. The brackets frame a lower frieze area decorated with jig-sawn vertical grooves, which also serve as ventilation for the attic. The tall, narrow window and door openings probably have segmentally arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums, but these are obscured by the formstone. All of the sash are modern 1/1 replacements. The sills are brick. Two of the houses have had their first floor windows replaced with a more fashionable (in the early 1900s) wider plate-glass window with stained glass transom. Doorways have single-light transoms, but no original doors remain. The houses sit on medium-height basements, lit by a single or a double-light sash. Each house is reached by two or three concrete or brick steps. A flat-linteled sallyport runs back between each pair of houses, providing service entrance to the rear yards.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1870 - 1875

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of early Italianate-style houses is significant in that it represents a most modest kind of small street house built at a time when large three-story Italianate-style houses were going up on the main streets, especially around newly developing parks and squares, like nearby Madison Square.

The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide three-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$2,000 to \$3,000; small street houses for \$600 - \$800. Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties, or sold them to other investors. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

The land on which these houses are built originally belonged to the Patterson family as part of their 18th century estate, which also included the land given by the family to the city for Patterson Park. In the 1870s and 1880s the Patterson heirs began developing this block by leasing parcels to various builders who constructed modestly-scaled and priced housing for the mainly German immigrant families who were settling near the port-related industries of Canton. Most of the houses sold to mainly German-American semi-skilled tradesmen and laborers employed in nearby factories, who received mortgages from a variety of local building and loans, many of them sponsored by the German community.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

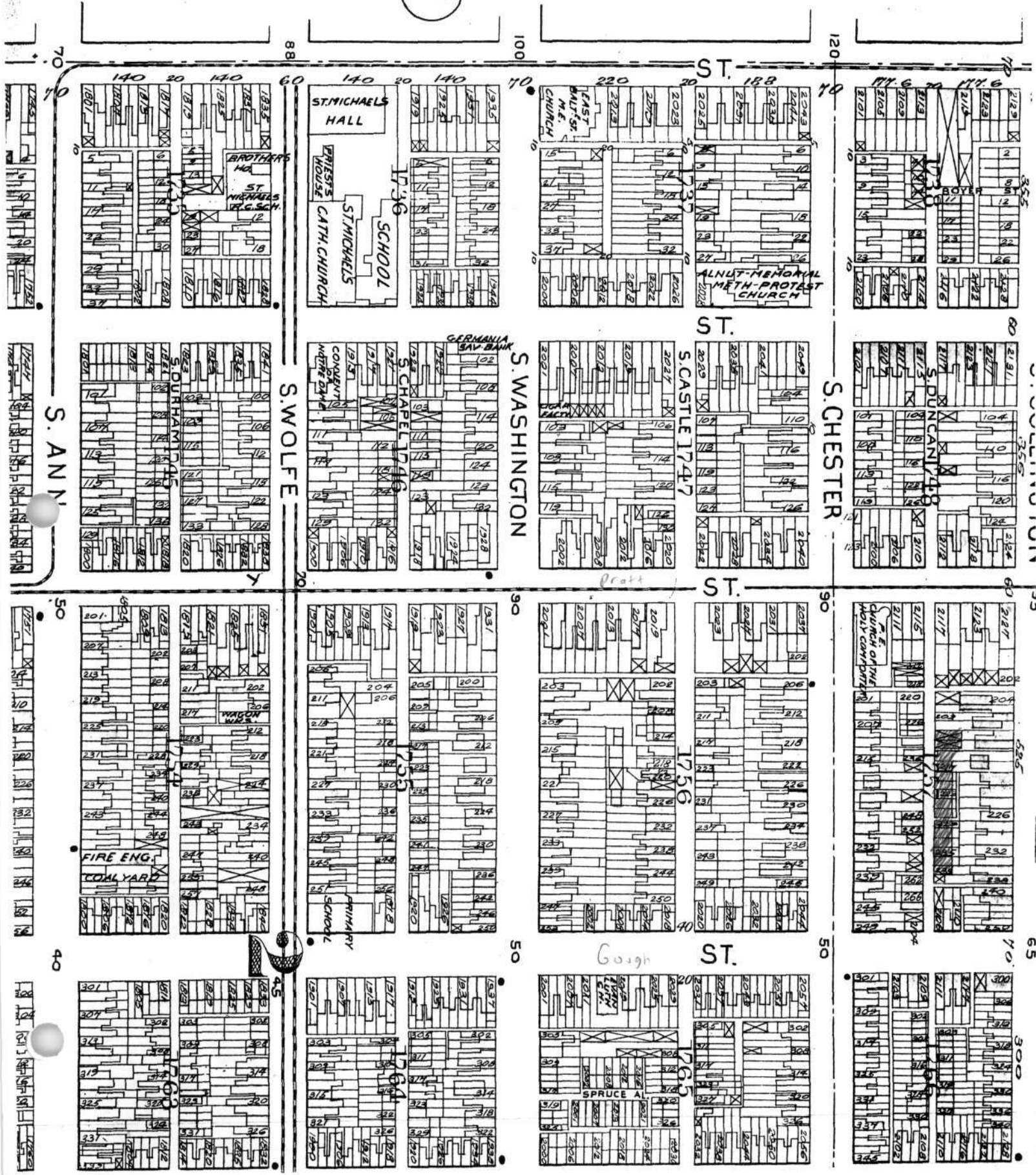
Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

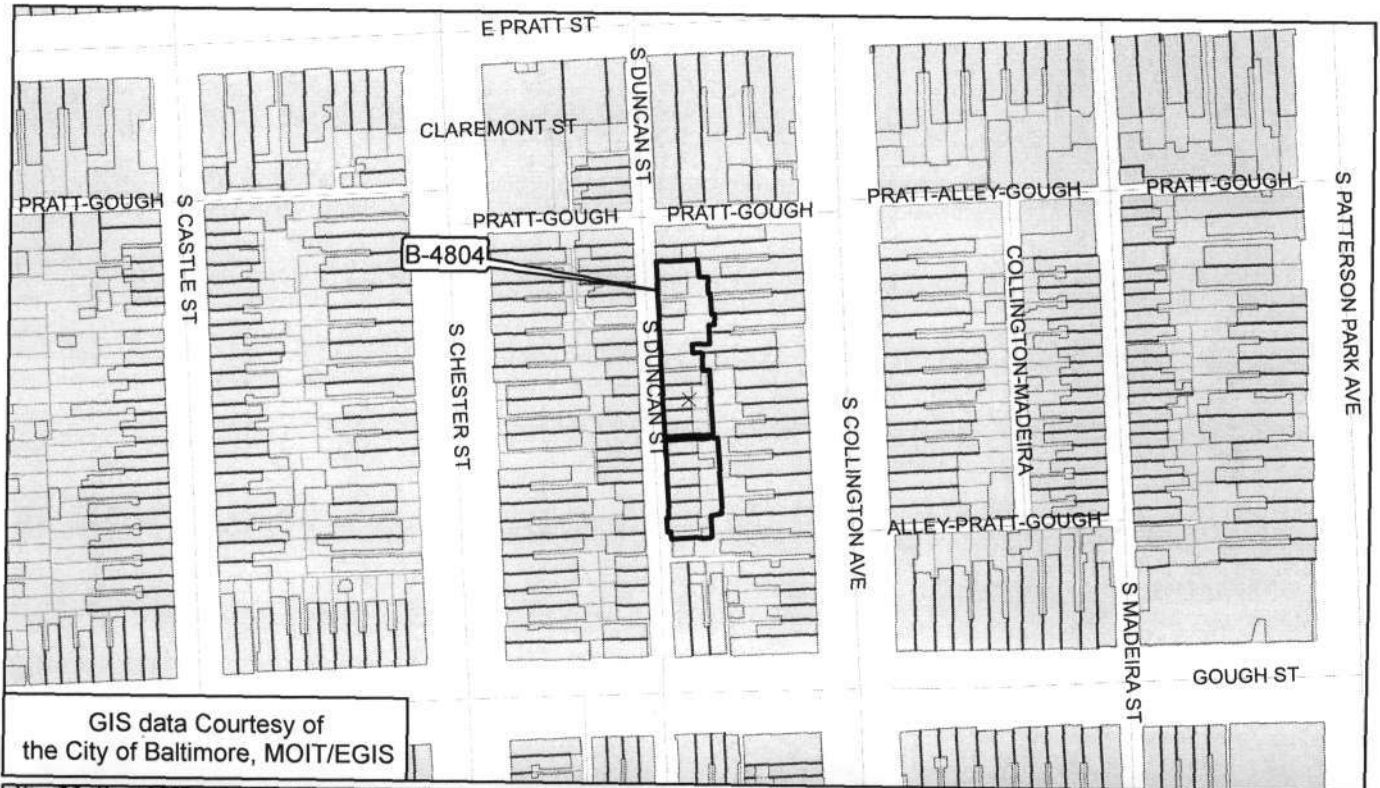
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

BALTO MD

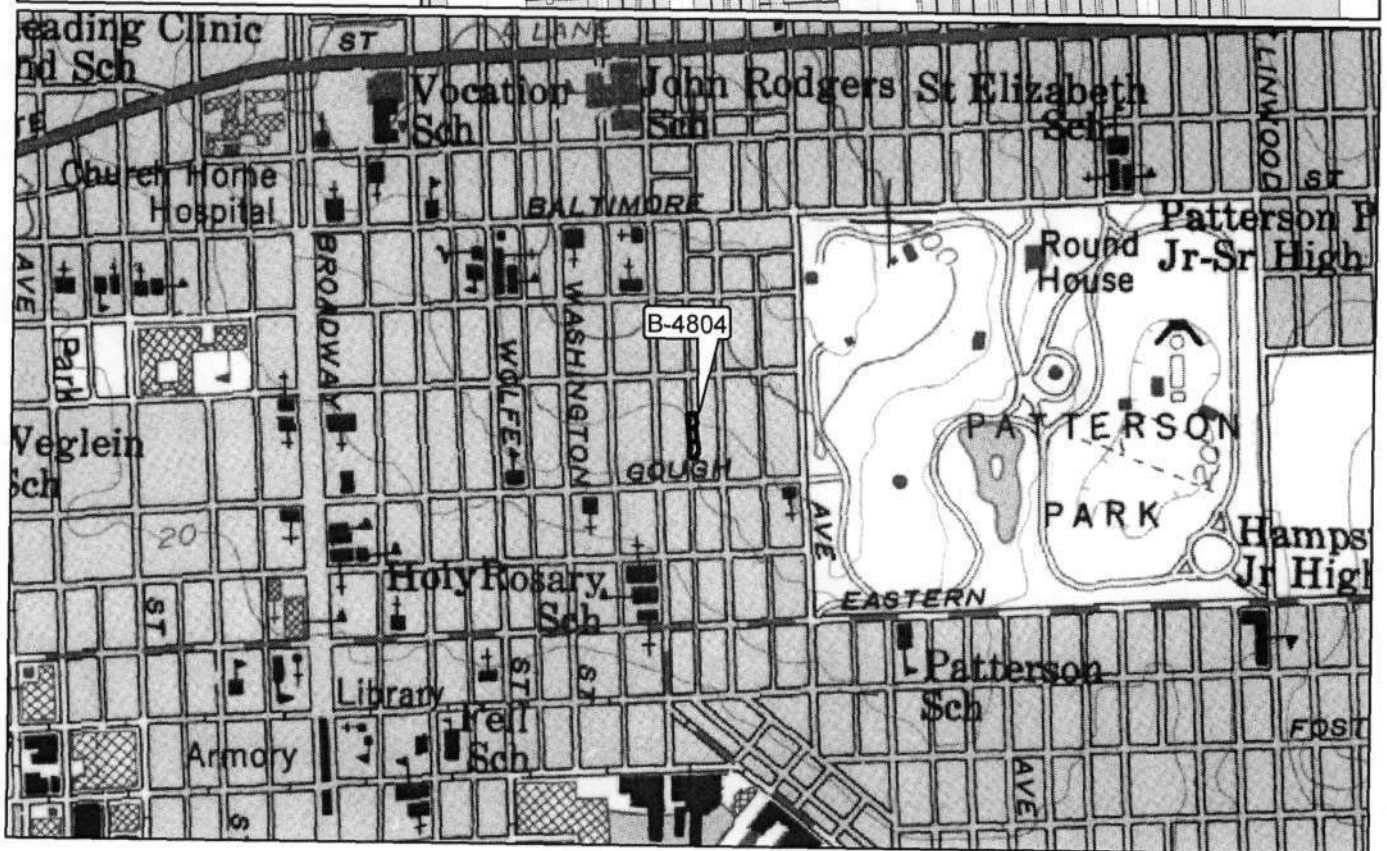
2



B-4804
209-239 S. Duncan Street
Block 1757, Lots 082-094
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS





209 S Duncan

FP10

B-4804

209-239, S. Duncan St.

BALTO, MD

8

C. Belfiore

10/97

1/7

2271500



217

217 S Duncan
FP10

B-4804

209 - 239 S. Duncan St.

BALTO. MD 8

C. Belfrage

10/97

2/7

209-239 S. Duncan St.



219-227 J Duncan

FP10

B-4804

209-239 S. Duncan St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belfrage

10/97

317

104-104



225

225 S Duncan
FD10

B-4804

209-239 S. Duncan St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belfiore

10/97

4/7



229-231 S Duncan

FP10

B-4804

209-239 S. Duncan St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belgrave

10/97

5/7



233-239 S Duncan
F710

B-4804

209-239 S. Duncan St.

BALTO, MD

C. Belfoure

10/97

6/7



234 S Duncan
FP10

B-4804

209-239 S. Duncan St.

BALTO, MD

C. E. Belfrage

10/97

7/7

117-20-1-10-10-217